

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 936

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served March 24, 1969

Authorization to Withdraw     )  
Funds from Commission-       )  
Ordered Escrow Account of     )  
D. C. Transit System, Inc.    )

By Order No. 773, served January 26, 1968, the Commission directed D. C. Transit System, Inc. (Transit) to establish a special fund in the amount of \$141,674 to be expended, as the Commission may direct, for service improvement projects. Expenditures from this "Special Escrow Fund" are to be made only upon the express written approval and directive of the Commission.

On June 18, 1968, by Order No. 829, Transit was directed to show cause why a series of experimental routes for transit patrons traveling from the far Southeast and Northeast sections of Washington to outlying sections of Northwest Washington should not be instituted. The order stated that to the extent the experimental service is not self-supporting, the Commission will direct the use of a portion of the Special Escrow Fund to finance the deficit incurred. Order 829 further stated that such use of the Special Escrow Fund would require a specific order of the Commission.

On July 10, 1968, Transit filed an application requesting 180 day temporary authority to establish three experimental routes from Fairfax Village (Southeast), Congress Heights, and Anacostia to destinations in the northwestern sectors of the District of Columbia. This application was granted by Order No. 839, served July 18, 1968, the service becoming effective July 22, 1968. This service continued for six months until January 17, 1969, during which time studies were made as to changing travel patterns, passenger loads on each route, and the trend of

passenger volume on these trips. Transit, and the Commission staff, worked closely in attempting to make certain that the availability of the new service was being communicated to all residents of the communities being served. Transit was specifically authorized to undertake an advertising program, utilizing various media.

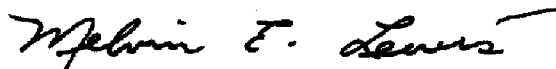
By the end of the six month experimental period, Transit and the Commission staff observed that certain definite riding patterns had been established; most of the patrons were using the express service only to the downtown area, and very few riders were utilizing the service between Capitol Hill and the Northwest terminals. Accordingly, by Route Authorization No. 1-69, the Commission authorized the rerouting of the three new routes, on a permanent basis, in order to accommodate the newly-developed travel patterns out of Anacostia, Congress Heights and Fairfax Village, Southeast.

Transit then filed a summary of its monthly operating statements covering the six month experimental operation. The monthly statements and the summary statement have been verified by the Commission staff. Direct costs of maintenance, operators' wages, and advertising for this six month program totaled \$42,885.31; farebox revenues amounted to \$20,868.79, for a net reimbursable loss of \$22,016.52.

The Commission is of the opinion that the costs of this experiment are an appropriate charge against the reserve established by Commission Order No. 773.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that D. C. Transit System, Inc., be, and it is hereby, authorized to transfer the amount of \$22,016.52 out of its escrow bank account and into its regular operating cash accounts, concurrently debiting its "Reserve for Commission-Ordered Projects" and contra-crediting its relevant expense accounts for 1968 and 1969.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:



MELVIN E. LEWIS  
Executive Director